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MICROSOFT CORPORATION ONE MICROSOFT WAY REDMOND, WA 98052			EXAMINER SONG, DAEHO D	
			ART UNIT 2172	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/693,228	Applicant(s) SHAPPELL ET AL.	
	Examiner DAEHO D. SONG	Art Unit 2172	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 December 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8,10-12,15-17 and 19-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8,10-12,15-17 and 19-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>attached</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Applicant's Response

In Applicant's Response dated 12/16/2010, Applicant amended Claims 1, 12, 15, and 17, added Claims 21-24, and argued against all rejections previously set forth in the Office Action dated 08/16/2010.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-2, 5-8, 10-12, 15-16, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearson (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0028610) in view of Block et al. (hereinafter Block): U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0050976, and further in view of Aboulhosen et al. (hereinafter Aboulhosen): U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0068524 and Meir et al. (hereinafter Meir): U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2005/0034070.

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Pearson **clearly** teaches:

Claim 1. A computer storage medium comprising computer executable code for creating a graphical user interface presented on a display in communication with a processor associated with a group interaction application for facilitating file sharing among a first member of a group and at least one other member of the group over a network, the computer executable code comprising code for displaying:

a group space comprising a first display area for providing an appearance of a shared file location which at least one of the other group members may access (fig. 9; [0051]: a shared files pane/a first display area that presents a shared file in which another group member may access);

at least one control located in a second display area selectable by the first member to select at least one task associated with the group space and to activate one or more operations with respect to files located in the first display area, such that at least one other group member is automatically shown the result of the operations performed with respect to the files displayed in the first display area (fig. 9.; [0008][0011][0051]: a

directory content pane/a second display area in which a task is selectable with respect to files and activated with an uploading operation, such that the result of the uploading operation is shown with respect to the files displayed in the shared files pane/first display); and

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Pearson fails to disclose:

a selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first user, the group member list including an indication field of a role for each of the members in the list;

a second control located in the second display area, the second control including a drop-down menu selectable by the first user for defining one of a plurality of roles for the at least one other group member.

Block expressly teaches:

a selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first user, the group member list including an indication field of a role for each of the members in the list (figs. 8 & 10; [0132]-[0135]: displaying a group member's list including specified roles);

a second control located in the second display area, the second control including a drop-down menu selectable by the first user for defining one of a plurality of roles for the at least one other group member (fig. 18; [0150]: displaying a drop-down menu for defining a role for a group member).

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Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, to include: *a selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first user, the group member list including an indication field of a role for each of the members in the list, and a second control located in the second display area, the second control including a drop-down menu selectable by the first user for defining one of a plurality of roles for the at least one other group member*, for the purpose of providing the ability for a member to interact with a variety of other members on the site who shares a commonality having community aspects associated with each member, as taught in Block.

Pearson and Block fail to disclose:

the list of group members also includes an indication reflecting for each group member whether the group member is currently online.

Aboulhosn expressly teaches:

the list of group members also includes an indication reflecting for each group member whether the group member is currently online ([0015]: a list of group members reflecting whether the group member is currently online or offline).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson and Block, to

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include: *the list of group members also includes an indication reflecting for each group member whether the group member is currently online*, for the purpose of providing Pearson and Block with the benefit of getting up-to-date information on the connectivity in the file sharing system, as taught in Aboulhosn.

Pearson, Block, and Aboulhosn fail to disclose:

an indication of new content, wherein new content comprises files added or changed within a predetermined period of time, and a third control allowing selection of the predetermined period of time.

Meir expressly teaches:

an indication of new content, wherein new content comprises files added or changed within a predetermined period of time, and a third control allowing selection of the predetermined period of time (fig. 5; [0057]: an indication of updating the file lists upon arrival of the new files based on the time intervals that a user selects).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, Block and Aboulhosn, to include: *an indication of new content, wherein new content comprises files added or changed within a predetermined period of time, and a third control allowing selection of the predetermined period of time*, for the purpose of providing

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Pearson, Block, and Aboulhossn with the benefit of recognizing whether files belonging to a cluster file are already present, as taught in Meir.

Pearson further teaches:

Claim 2. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the network is a peer-to-peer network ([0027]: the peer-to-peer network).

Claim 5:

The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the group space is comprised of a subfolder that is displayed in a folder view (fig. 9.: the folder named “Arrivals” is a subfolder which is displayed within the folder of “OthNet”).

Claim 6. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the first user may perform file system operations with respect to files in the shared space on the basis of permissions being granted to the first member ([0045]: “permission to share” is required by the file sharing administrator/the first user).

Claim 7. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein said group space is assigned a unique identifier that is made available to the at least one other member ([0045]: generating a unique identifier for use by the host computers/group members of the file-sharing system).

Claim 8. The computer storage medium as in claim 7, wherein each of the group members having access to said group space is assigned a unique identifier that is made available to the other group members ([0045]: a unique identifier in identifying files to be shared among the host computers/group members).

Claim 10. The computer storage medium as in claim 1 further comprising a second control located in the second display area, the second control selectable by the first member for adding at least one additional group member ([0028]: adding a new host computer/new member to the host list).

Claim 11. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, wherein the appearance of the first group space may be altered by the first member, and wherein the group interaction program further comprises means for causing the appearance of a corresponding group space displayed to the at least one other group member to also be altered consistent with the alteration of the first group space ([0065]: alterations on the files displayed with checked checkboxes on the user's host computer/the first user for sharing are consistent with the alterations of other host computers).

Claim 12. The computer storage medium as in claim 1, further comprising computer executable code for displaying an indication of a file dropped by the first member

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whereby a notification corresponding to the indication is automatically transmitted to the at least one other online group member ([0035]: indication of file receiving from a first member through a checklist used to keep track of requested file by other members).

Claim 16. The graphical user interface as in claim 15, wherein the computer network comprises a peer-to-peer network ([0027]: peer-to-peer network).

Claims 15, 23 and 24:

The subject matter recited in Claims 15, 23 and 24 corresponds to the subject matter recited in Claim 1. Thus Pearson, in view of Block, Aboulhosn and Meir, discloses every limitation of Claims 15, 23 and 24, as indicated in the above rejections for Claim 1.

Pearson, in view of Block, Aboulhosn, and Meir, teaches:

Claim 22. The method as in claim 17, further comprising displaying an indication of a file added to the group space by the first user, whereby the indication of the file added to the group space by the first user is displayed with a new content indicator if the file was added or modified within a predetermined period of time (fig. 5; [0057]: an indication of updating the file lists upon arrival of the new files based on the time intervals that a user selects).

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2. Claims 17 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearson, in view of Block and Aboulhosn.

Claim 17.

Pearson expressly teaches:

A method of forming a group space to enable interaction between a first user and at least one other user over a network comprising:

displaying to the first user via a first user display a group folder object having associated therewith a first selectable task for forming a group comprising the first user and at least one other user (fig. 9.; [0008][0011][0051]: displaying a group folder to a first user having associated with a task, which correspond to a list of group members where a user-selected file is stored);

Pearson fails to disclose:

transmitting from the first user a request to join the group by sending a communication over the network to a computing device used by the at least one other user to initiate a group communication session between the first user and the at least one other user; and receiving a response to the invitation request by receipt of a unique numeric identifier associated with the at least one other user; displaying a selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first user, the group member list including an indication field of a role for each of the members in the list..

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Block expressly teaches:

transmitting from the first user a request to join the group by sending a communication over the network to a computing device used by the at least one other user to initiate a group communication session between the first user and the at least one other user (fig. 21; [0154][0155]: sending an invitation to join the group from a first user, such as owner, to a second user to initiate a group communication between the first user and the second user); and

receiving from the computing device used by the at least one other user a response to the invitation request, the response including a unique numeric identifier associated with the at least one other user (fig. 23; [0157]: receiving information in response to an invitation by means of tracking the response with numeric number for each invitee);

displaying a selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first user, the group member list including an indication field of a role for each of the members in the list (figs. 8 & 10; [0132]-[0135]: displaying a group member's list including specified roles).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, to include:

transmitting from the first user a request to join the group by sending a communication over the network to a computing device used by the at least one other user to initiate a group communication session between the first user and the at least one other user;

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and receiving from the computing device used by the at least one other user a response to the invitation request, the response including a unique numeric identifier associated with the at least one other user; displaying a selectable indicator for visually presenting a group member list to the first user, the group member list including an indication field of a role for each of the members in the list, for the purpose of providing the ability for a member to interact with a variety of other members on the site who shares a commonality having community aspects associated with each member by means of inviting other users to join the group, as taught in Block.

Pearson and Block fail to disclose:

the list of group members also includes an indicia reflecting for each group member whether the group member is currently connected to the network.

Aboulhosn expressly teaches:

the list of group members also includes an indicia reflecting for each group member whether the group member is currently connected to the network ([0015]: a list of group members reflecting whether the group member is currently online or offline).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson and Block, to include:

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the list of group members also includes an indicia reflecting for each group member whether the group member is currently connected to the network, for the purpose of providing Pearson and Block with the benefit of getting up-to-date information on the connectivity in the file sharing system, as taught in Aboulhosn.

Pearson further teaches:

Claim 19. The method according to claim 17, further comprising presenting a group space to the first user in response to receipt of the selection of the task wherein the group space includes a second selectable group icon associated with a list of members comprising the first user and at least one other user who is a member of the group (fig. 9: presenting a second selectable group icon associated with a group list in response to the selection of the task).

Claim 20. The method according to claim 19, wherein the network comprises a peer-to-peer network ([0027]).

Claim 21. The method as in claim 17, further comprising receiving an input selecting between (a) a first mode in which files in the group space are copied to the computing device used by the at least one other user on an on-demand basis and (b) a second mode in which files in the shared space are replicated to the computer device used by

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the at least one other user when the files are added to the group space (figs. 22-29; [0057]-[0058]).

3. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pearson in view of Block, Aboulhoshn and Meir, and further in view of Markki et al. (hereinafter Markki): U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2004/0243672.

Claim 3:

As indicated in the above rejection, Pearson in view of Block, Aboulhoshn and Meir discloses every limitation of Claim 1.

Pearson in view of Block, Aboulhoshn and Meir fails to expressly disclose:

the at least one task comprises a first computer file system task usable to perform a drag and drop operation with respect to files located in the first display area.

Markki teaches:

the at least one task comprises a first computer file system task usable to perform a drag and drop operation with respect to files located in the first display area ([0107]: performing a drag and drop operation with respect to files in a GUI window).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system, disclosed in Pearson, Block, Aboulhosen and Meir, to include: *the at least one task comprises a first computer file system task usable to perform a drag and drop operation with respect to files located in the first display area*, for the purpose of providing a way of offering capabilities to individuals to share the digital items with other individuals with the sharing technologies, as taught in Markki (see [0002]).

Markki further teaches:

Claim 4:

the at least one task comprises a first computer file system task usable to perform at least one of a copy, cut, paste or edit operation with respect to files located in the first display area ([0093]: performing a copy operation with respect to files in a GUI window).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments against the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. 103 with respect to Claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

5. Applicant's arguments against the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. § 103 with respect to Claim 8 have been considered, but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Pearson and Block fails to disclose any identifier to each group member to be shared with other group members, as recited in claim 8.

The examiner disagrees.

As indicated in the above rejection for Claim 8, Pearson clearly teaches that each host computer (i.e. each group member) on the peer-to-peer network is uniquely identified by an entry, such as an Internet Protocol or IP address and a port number (see [0027]).

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DAEHO D. SONG whose telephone number is (571)272-7524. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:30-6:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boris Pesin can be reached on (571)272-4070. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Daeho D Song/
Examiner, Art Unit 2172

/Boris Pesin/
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